

S.N. 10/004,403
Art Unit 2116

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 9-12 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hedayat et al. (US 6,327,648). Claims 6-8 and 13-18 are allowed. Since claim 8 is a dependent claim from claim 3, that in turn depends from claim 1, it is believed that the Examiner meant to object to claim 8.

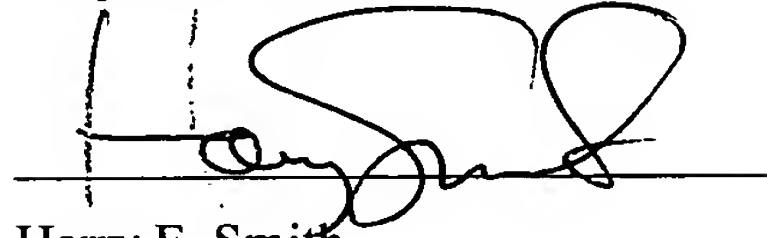
In order to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 3 and 8. Claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 should thus be allowable, as should claims 2, 4 and 5 that depend from claim 1. In addition, claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the dependency of claims 10, 11 and 12 has been changed to depend from allowed claim 13. Claims 10, 11 and 12 should also be allowable.

It is noted that the foregoing amendment should not be construed as an express or an implied admission that the Applicant is in agreement with the Examiner's reasons for rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims, and to allow all of the pending claims as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10-18 is earnestly solicited.

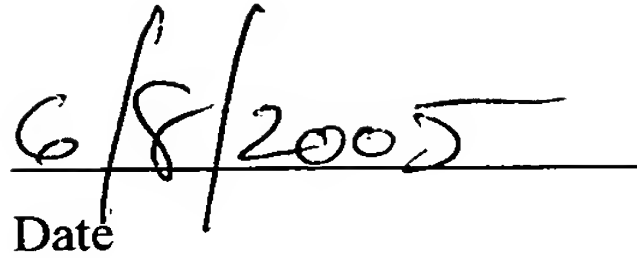
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Respectfully submitted:



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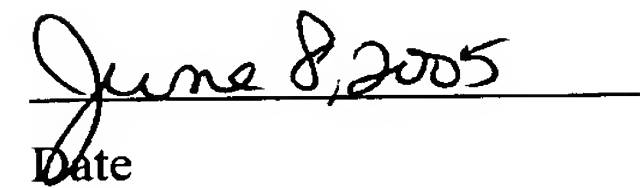
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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